

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September, 2010

CONTACTS: Eric Alvarez
(916) 445-5383 or (916) 275-7923 (cell)

Bay-Delta Science Conference Will Deliver Latest on Delta Issues *Conference Looks at Science for Managing California's Water Future*

SACRAMENTO – The latest scientific information, useful in shaping management and policy decisions for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Bay, will be shared when more than 1,000 scientists, managers, and policymakers attend the 6th Biennial Bay-Delta Science Conference September 27-29.

“This event is similar to a major national or international science conference with high quality and timely presentations,” said Cliff Dahm, Lead Scientist for the Delta Stewardship Council. “I strongly urge scientists, policy makers, decision makers, and the interested public to join us to get an up-to-date look at new science understanding of the Delta and Bay.”

Entitled “Ecosystem Sustainability: Focusing on Managing California's Water Future,” the conference will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street. It begins with a plenary session at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 27. The session will feature a presentation from Phil Isenberg, Chair of the Delta Stewardship Council, on the nexus between science and policy in the Delta. Dr. Cliff Dahm, lead scientist for the Delta Science Program, will then look to the scientific needs for the future for a more sustainable Delta. Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of Interior, will also highlight cutting-edge research from scientists at the Department of Interior.

-MORE-

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054

The plenary session concludes with talks from two of the new members of the Delta Independent Science Board. Vince Resh from UC Berkeley will share his recent experiences in developing a biological monitoring program in the lower Mekong River. And John Wiens of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science Program will explore conservation and management in the labyrinth that is the current Delta.

Several special sessions will be held throughout the event. For instance, throughout the day on Monday a display of environmental art by Linda Gass will be held on the 3rd floor lobby. She will give a short talk about her art as part of the plenary presentations. On Monday evening a presentation of the video RiverWebs will be screened in rooms 308-310 from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. RiverWebs is a moving tribute to Sheguro Nakano, a leading aquatic ecologist from Japan who died tragically in the Gulf of California, and the research he has inspired with collaborators from the western US and Japan. Then on Tuesday from 12:20 to 1:20 p.m. a media communication workshop will be held from 12:20 to 1:20 p.m. in rooms 308-310. The workshop will bring together a panel of media experts who will discuss how to better understand and properly report the scientific messages offered by meeting participants.

Oral sessions focusing on water quality, habitats and restoration, species and communities, integrated science and management, and long-term challenges for the Delta and the Bay are scheduled for Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday and Wednesday. Poster sessions will allow for visits with the presenters during a reception on Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. and Tuesday from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B on the 1st floor of the Convention Center.

This year's conference has been ably organized by Jay Lund of UC Davis, and David Schoellhamer from the US Geological Survey.

Editors and Reporters Note: A news conference with top conference newsmakers will be held at 12:15 p.m. on Monday, September 27, in Room 304 of the Sacramento Convention Center.

###